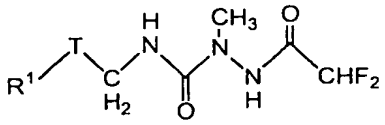
## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

## LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-9. (canceled).

10. (original): A difluoroacetyl semicarbazide compound of the formula [XXVI]:



[ XXVI ]

wherein,

$R^1$ represents $A^1$-$L^1$-, $A^1$-ON=C$A^2$-, $A^1$-ON=C (Me) $CH_2$ON=C$A^2$-, $A^1$-C ($A^2$) =N-$OCH_2$-, $A^1$S-C ($A^2$) =N-, $A^1$-C (=S) NH-, $A^1$S-C (=S) NH-, $A^1$S-C (S$A^2$) =N-, $A^1$-ON=C (CN) -, $A^1$-O N=C (Me) $CH_2$ON=C (CN) -, $A^1$-C (CN) =N-$OCH_2$-, halogen atom, nitro or cyano;

wherein $L^1$ represents single bond, oxygen atom, sulfur atom, carbonyl, -$OCH_2$-, -$SCH_2$-, -C (=0) 0-, -OC (=0) -, -C (=0) $OCH_2$-, -NH- or $C_1$-$C_6$ alkylimino;

$A^1$ and $A^2$, which are the same or different, represent hydrogen atom, $C_1$-$C_{10}$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_{10}$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_{10}$ alkynyl, $C_3$-$C_{10}$ cycloalkyl, ($C_3$-$C_{10}$ cycloalkyl) alkyl, $C_5$-$C_{10}$ cycloalkenyl, ($C_5$-$C_{10}$ cycloalkenyl) alkyl, phenyl, naphthyl, phenyl $C_1$-$C_{10}$ alkyl, naphtyl $C_1$-$C_{10}$ alkyl, 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic group optionally condensed with a benzene ring, or methyl substituted by a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic group optionally condensed with a benzene ring;

the alkyl, the alkenyl, the alkynyl, the cycloalkyl, the cycloalkylalkyl, the cycloalkenyl and the cycloalkenylalkyl represented by $A^1$ and $A^2$, may optionally be each substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atom (s), cyano, nitro, $C_1$-$C_{10}$ alkoxy, $C_1$-$C_{10}$ haloalkoxy, $C_1$-$C_{10}$ alkylthio, $C_1$-$C_{10}$ haloalkylthio, ($C_1$-$C_9$ alkyl) carbonyl, ($C_1$-$C_9$ alkoxy) carbonyl, ($C_1$-$C_9$ alkyl) carbonylamino, phenyl, phenoxy, benzyloxy and tri ($C_1$-$C_{10}$ alkyl) silyl;

the phenyl, the naphthyl, the benzene ring in the phenylalkyl, the naphthalene ring in the phenylnaphthyl, the heterocyclic group, and the heterocyclic ring in the methyl substituted by a heterocylic group, represented by $A^1$ and $A^2$, may optionally be each substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, cyano, nitro, $C_1$-$C_{10}$ alkyl, $C_1$-$C_{10}$ haloalkyl, $C_3$-$C_{10}$ cycloalkyl, $C_1$-$C_{10}$ alkoxy, $C_1$-$C_{10}$ haloalkoxy, $C_1$-$C_{10}$ alkylthio, $C_1$-$C_{10}$ haloalkylthio, ($C_1$-$C_9$ alkyl) carbonyl, ($C_1$-$C_9$ alkoxy) carbonyl, ($C_1$-$C_9$ alkyl) carbonylamino, phenyl, phenoxy, benzyloxy, tri ($C_1$-$C_{10}$ alkyl) silyl, methylenedioxy and difluoromethylenedioxy; with the proviso, when $L^1$ is single bond, $A^1$ is not a hydrogen atom;

T represents optionally substituted *m*-phenylene, optionally substituted *m*-azaphenylene or optionally substituted *m*-diazaphenylene bonded to $R^1$ and to $CH_2$ each via a carbon atom;

wherein the substituent(s) are one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atom(s), cyano, nitro, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, $C_1$-$C_6$ haloalkyl, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkoxy, $C_1$-$C_6$ haloalkoxy, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkylthio, $C_1$-$C_6$ haloalkylthio and ($C_1$-$C_5$ alkoxy) carbonyl.

11. (original): The difluoroacetyl semicarbazide compound according to claim 10, wherein T is optionally substituted *m*-phenylene; wherein the substituent(s) are one or more

substituents selected from the group of halogen atoms, cyano, nitro, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, $C_1$-$C_6$ haloalkyl, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkoxy, $C_1$-$C_6$ haloalkoxy, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkylthio, $C_1$-$C_6$ haloalkylthio and ($C_1$-$C_5$ alkoxy) carbonyl.

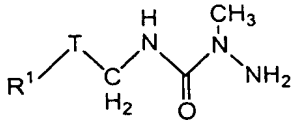
12. (original): The difluoroacetyl semicarbazide compound according to claim 10, wherein T is optionally substituted *m*-azaphenylene or optionally substituted *m*-diazaphenylene bonded to $R^1$ and to $CH_2$ each via a carbon atom;

wherein the substituent(s) are one or more substituents selected from the group of halogen atom(s), cyano, nitro, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, $C_1$-$C_6$ haloalkyl, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkoxy, $C_1$-$C_6$ haloalkoxy, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkylthio, $C_1$-$C_6$ haloalkylthio and ($C_1$-$C_5$ alkoxy) carbonyl.

13. (original): The difluoroacetyl semicarbazide compound according to claim 10, wherein T is optionally substituted *m*-phenylene; wherein the substituent(s) are halogen atom(s) or methyl.

14. (original): 1-Difluoroacetyl-2-methyl-4-(2-methyl-5-phenylbenzyl) semicarbazide; which is the difluoroacetyl semicarbazide compound according to claim 10.

15. (original): A semicarbazide compound of the formula [VII]:




[ VII ]

wherein;

$R^1$ represents $A^1$-$L^1$-, $A^1$-ON=C$A^2$-, $A^1$-ON=C (Me) $CH_20N$=C$A^2$-, $A^1$-C ($A^2$) =N-$OCH_2$-, $A^1$S-C ($A^2$) =N-, $A^1$-C (=S) NH-, $A^1$S-C (=S) NH-, $A^1$S-C ($SA^2$) =N-, $A^1$-ON=C (CN) -, $A^1$-ON=C (Me) $CH_2$ON=C (CN) -, $A^1$-C (CN) =N-$OCH_2$-, halogen atom, nitro or cyano;

wherein, $L^1$ represents single bond, oxygen atom, sulfur atom, carbonyl, -$OCH_2$-, -$SCH_2$-, -C (=0) 0-, -OC (=0) -, -C (=0) $OCH_2$-, -NH- or $C_1$-$C_6$ alkylimino;

$A^1$ and $A^2$, which are the same or different, represent hydrogen atom, $C_1$-$C_{10}$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_{10}$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_{10}$ alkynyl, $C_3$-$C_{10}$ cycloalkyl, ($C_3$-$C_{10}$ cycloalkyl) alkyl, $C_5$-$C_{10}$ cycloalkenyl, ($C_5$-$C_{10}$ cycloalkenyl) alkyl, phenyl, naphthyl, phenyl $C_1$-$C_{10}$ alkyl, naphtyl $C_1$-$C_{10}$ alkyl, 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic group optionally condensed with a benzene ring, or methyl substituted by a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic group optionally condensed with a benzene ring;

the alkyl, the alkenyl, the alkynyl, the cycloalkyl, the cycloalkylalkyl, the cycloalkenyl and the cycloalkenylalkyl, represented by $A^1$ and $A^2$, may optionally be each substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atom(s), cyano, nitro, $C_1$-$C_{10}$ alkoxy, $C_1$-$C_{10}$ haloalkoxy, $C_1$-$C_{10}$ alkylthio, $C_1$-$C_{10}$ haloalkylthio, ($C_1$-$C_9$ alkyl) carbonyl, ($C_1$-$C_9$ alkoxy) carbonyl, ($C_1$-$C_9$ alkyl) carbonylamino, phenyl, phenoxy, benzyloxy and tri ($C_1$-$C_{10}$ alkyl) silyl; the phenyl, the naphthyl, the benzene ring in the phenylalkyl, the naphthalene ring in the phenylnaphthyl, the heterocyclic group, and the heterocyclic ring in the methyl substituted by a heterocylic group, represented by $A^1$ and $A^2$, may optionally be each substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atom(s), cyano, nitro, $C_1$-$C_{10}$ alkyl, $C_1$-$C_{10}$ haloalkyl, $C_3$-$C_{10}$ cycloalkyl, $C_1$-$C_{10}$

alkoxy, $C_1$-$C_{10}$ haloalkoxy, $C_1$-$C_{10}$ alkylthio, $C_1$-$C_{10}$ haloalkylthio, ($C_1$-$C_9$ alkyl) carbonyl, ($C_1$-$C_9$ alkoxy) carbonyl, ($C_1$-$C_9$ alkyl) carbonylamino, phenyl, phenoxy, benzyloxy, tri ($C_1$-$C_{10}$ alkyl) silyl, methylenedioxy and difluoromethylenedioxy; with the proviso, when $L^1$ is single bond, $A^1$ is not a hydrogen atom;

T represents optionally substituted *m*-phenylene, optionally substituted *m*-azaphenylene or optionally substituted *m*-diazaphenylene bonded to $R^1$ and to $CH_2$ each via a carbon atom;

wherein the substituent(s) are one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atom(s), cyano, nitro, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, $C_1$-$C_6$ haloalkyl, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkoxy, $C_1$-$C_6$ haloalkoxy, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkylthio, $C_1$-$C_6$ haloalkylthio and ($C_1$-$C_5$ alkoxy) carbonyl.

16. (original): The semicarbazide compound according to claim 15, wherein T is optionally substituted *m*-phenylene;

wherein the substituent(s) are one or more substituents selected from the group of halogen atom(s), cyano, nitro, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, $C_1$-$C_6$ haloalkyl, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkoxy, $C_1$-$C_6$ haloalkoxy, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkylthio, $C_1$-$C_6$ haloalkylthio and ($C_1$-$C_5$ alkoxy) carbonyl.

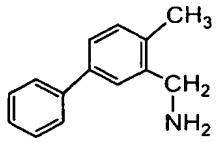
17. (original): The semicarbazide compound according to claim 15, wherein T is optionally substituted *m*-azaphenylene or optionally substituted *m*-diazaphenylene bonded to $R^1$ and to $CH_2$ each via a carbon atom;

wherein the substituent(s) are one or more substituents selected from the group of halogen atom(s), cyano, nitro, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, $C_1$-$C_6$ haloalkyl, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkoxy, $C_1$-$C_6$ haloalkoxy, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkylthio, $C_1$-$C_6$ haloalkylthio and ($C_1$-$C_5$ alkoxy) carbonyl.

18. (original): The semicarbazide compound according to claim 15, wherein T is optionally substituted *m*-phenylene; wherein the substituent(s) are halogen atom(s) or methyl.

19. (original): 2-Methyl-4-(2-methyl-5-phenylbenzyl)semicarbazide; which is the semicarbazide compound according to claim 15.

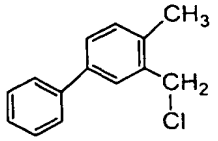
20. (original): 2-Methyl-5-phenylbenzylamine of the formula [XVI-1]:




[ XVI-1 ] ,

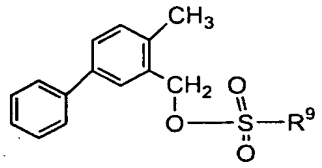
its inorganic acid salt or its sulfonic acid salt.

21. (original): 2-Methyl-5-phenylbenzyl chloride of the formula [XIII-1]:




[ XIII-1 ]

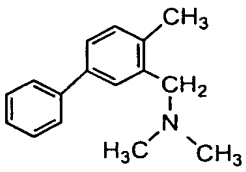
22. (original): A sulfonate ester compound of the formula [XIII-2]:




[ XIII-2 ]

wherein $R^9$ represents methyl or p-tolyl.

23. (original): N, N-Dimethyl-(2-methyl-5-phenylbenzyl)amine of the formula [LI]:




[LI],

its inorganic acid salt or its sulfonic acid salt.